

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /130 W

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R 171232Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8555

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

CINCPAC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 14824

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO INTERVIEW WITH KULDIP NAYAR

SUMMARY: PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF INDIA-PAKISTAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH KULDIP NAYAR

PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 17 "STATESMAN". BHUTTO ALSO SAID BANGLADESH WOULD

BE INVITED TO THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT. BHUTTO INSISTED KASHMIR WAS STILL AN

ISSUE BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY BY NEGOTIATIONS. HE URGED MRS. GANDHI TO VISIT PAKISTAN. HE COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON THE BREZHNEV

VISIT AND ON INDIA-PAKISTAN REDUCTION OF FORCES. END SUMMARY.

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1. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: NAYAR REPORTED THAT BHUTTO SAID "AGAIN AND AGAIN" DURING HIS DECEMBER 15 INTERVIEW THAT PAKISTAN WANTED IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH INDIA. "IT SOUNDS TO

ME UNNATURAL THAT WE SHOULD NOT HAVE AMBASSADORS IN BOTH COUNTRIES," BHUTTO REPORTEDLY SAID. ASKED IF THIS WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT COMPLETION OF REPATRIATION OF THE POW'S, BHUTTO REPLIED, "I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU WILL REPATRIATE ALL PRISONERS INCLUDING THE 195. "THERE IS NO DIFFICULTY EVEN ABOUT THOSE 195 BECAUSE ACCORDING TO THE DELHI AGREEMENT THEY CANNOT GO TO EAST PAKISTAN OR BANGLADESH. MOREOVER, THIS IS A PROBLEM BETWEEN MUJIBUR RAHMAN AND MYSELF."

2. BANGLADESH AT THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE: BHUTTO REPORTEDLY TOLD NAYAR THAT BANGLADESH WOULD BE INVITED TO THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN LAHORE IN JANUARY. NAYAR REPORTED BHUTTO BELIEVED THIS WOULD BE DEFACTO RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH, FOLLOWED BY DE JURE RECOGNITION IN TIME.

3. KASHMIR: BHUTTO SAID THE KASHMIR DISPUTE COULD NOT BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY OR PUT ASIDE. WHILE BHUTTO EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR A PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, NAYAR THOUGHT HIS POSITION HAD HARDENED SINCE APRIL 1972, WHEN HE TALKED OF CONVERTING THE CEASEFIRE LINE INTO A LINE OF PEACE. THIS TIME BHUTTO SAID THE LINE OF CONTROL IN KASHMIR COULD BE A LINE OF PEACE RATHER THAN A LINE OF CONFRONTATION EVEN WITHOUT HAVING RESOLVED THE PROBLEM. BHUTTO REJECTED A TRIESTE-TYPE SOLUTION IN THE SENSE OF PARTITION BUT INDICATED THAT THE APPROACH WAS APPLICABLE. "BOTH SIDES DECIDED TO TAKE IT (TRIESTE) AWAY FROM THE ARENA OF POLITICS IN THE SENSE OF EXPLOITATION, AND TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT NOT TO MAKE IT AN ELECTION ISSUE OR USE IT TO DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLE FROM SOMETHING ELSE." BHUTTO INSISTED THAT

HE HAD NOT URGED STUDENTS TO RESORT TO GUERRILLA WARFARE DURING HIS RECENT TOUR OF KASHMIR, BUT HAD

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ONLY RESPONDED TO HECKLERS ADVOCATING GUERRILLA WARFARE BY TELLING THEM, "IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT GUERRILLA WARFARE, COME ALONG, I SHALL SEND YOU TO THE CIVIL ARMED FORCES." HE SAID HIS MAIN MESSAGE HAD BEEN THAT

WE MUST RESOLVE THE PROBLEM THROUGH PEACEFUL METHODS AND THAT WAR HAS FAILED TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM.

4. MRS. GANDHI'S VISIT: BHUTTO SAID HE INVITED MRS. GANDHI TO VISIT PAKISTAN INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, AND THAT THIS HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN A LETTER BY HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, AZIZ AHMED; "I HAVE BEEN TO INDIA. NOW IT IS ABOUT TIME THAT SHE SHOULD VISIT PAKISTAN AND HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH US. IT WILL ACCELERATE THE PROCESS OF NORMAL RELATIONS. IF SHE DOES NOT COME, IT WILL MAKE US UNDERSTAND THAT IT (SIC) CANNOT BE DONE."

5. BREZHNEV VISIT: "THERE ARE TWO STORIES GOING AROUND. ONE IS THAT INDIA DID NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THE ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PACT AND SAID THAT IT WOULD IMPINGE ON ITS NONALIGNMENT. THE OTHER IS THAT INDIA HAS TACITLY AGREED TO THE PACT AND HAS ASKED THE SOVIET UNION FOR TIME TO CREATE A BETTER CLIMATE IN INDIA ITSELF. ALSO, AFTER SHE AND CHINA HAVE RESTORED THEIR RELATIONSHIP, SHE WOULD SUBSCRIBE TO THE TREATY. WE RECEIVED REPORTS SIX OR SEVEN MONTHS AGO THAT INDIA HAD APPROACHED INDONESIA FOR SUBSCRIBING TO THE PACT. RUSSIA IS A GREAT POWER. IT WOULD NOT HAVE ENTHUSIASTICALLY AGREED TO MANY OTHER THINGS IF THERE HAD NOT BEEN SOME GIVE AND TAKE."

6. INDIA-PAKISTAN REDUCTION OF FORCES: "INDIA HAS IGNORED MY PROPOSAL. I AM NOT INTERESTED IN A TECHNICAL STAND THAT, BECAUSE OF CHINA, YOU CAN'T DO IT. WE TOO HAVE A LONG BORDER WITH AFGHANISTAN.

OUR PROBLEM WITH IT HAS BEEN IT HAS BEEN REOPENED BY THE DAUD GOVERNMENT I CAN TELL THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO HAVE PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH CHINA. YOU CAN GO ON WITH YOUR STAND AND WE WITH OURS. BUT EVEN THE MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPLICATED PLAN OF DISARMAMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT. WE CAN PROVIDE NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS TO SEE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES ABIDE BY THE AGREEMENT".
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, MOSLEMS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, SUMMIT MEETINGS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE14824
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731221/aaaaapcb.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Dec-2001 by williad>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTTO INTERVIEW WITH KULDIP NAYAR SUMMARY: PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE RESUMP
TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, BG, (GANDHI, INDIRA), (BHUTTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005